

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MR. LARRY BINGER
28TH NATIONAL VETERANS'
WHEELCHAIR GAMES ATHLETE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry Binger for his service and dedication as a veteran and accomplished wheelchair athlete. Mr. Binger is a disabled veteran who has become an enthusiastic competitor and an inspiration to the people of Delaware. As he has for the past twenty one years, he will serve as Delaware's lone representative at the twenty eighth National Veterans' Wheelchair Games in Omaha, Nebraska starting July 25.

Beginning in 1981, the Veteran's Affairs department and Paralyzed Veterans of America began the National Veterans' Wheelchair Games. The Games host nearly six hundred athletes from forty six states with the help of hundreds of sponsors. These athletes range from survivors of World War II to those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. More than twenty five percent of the athletes have been disabled for more than twenty five years. The Games allow participants to compete in various sporting events despite their physical challenges.

While serving in Vietnam, Mr. Binger injured his back working on his ship, the USS *Shangri La*. Following his injury, in order to stay active, Mr. Binger began competing in wheelchair marathons. He represents Delaware at the National Games in multiple events including javelin, discus, archery, bowling, trapshooting and various fishing events. Mr. Binger competes in the masters division of these events, with an excellent showing last year. In addition to his perseverance and rigorous training, Mr. Binger is passionately committed to serving other veterans. He has been a member of the Patriot Guard Riders for several years, considering it an honor to attend the funerals of fallen comrades. In competing as a disabled athlete, Mr. Binger strives to set an example that will give hope to both long-time and recently disabled veterans in the tri-state area. The highest commendations should be bestowed upon this devoted individual.

I acknowledge and thank Mr. Larry Binger for his exceptional service to the Navy, our country, and now the community of Delaware. Our veterans here are truly privileged to have such an excellent competitor represent them in the National Veterans' Wheelchair Games. I am confident that Mr. Binger will continue to serve Delaware with honor. I wish him the best of luck at the Games next week and with all of his endeavors henceforth.

IN HONOR OF MINNESOTA'S NEW
VFW STATE COMMANDER, STAN
KOWALSKI

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Minnesota's new VFW Commander, Stan Kowalski, who was officially installed last month at a ceremony in Moorhead, Minnesota. As the VFW has itself noted, Stan Kowalski may very well be the last state commander nationwide to emerge from that Greatest Generation, veterans of the Second World War.

Though he numbers in years 82, Stan Kowalski is a vibrant, active, energetic citizen. In fact, he's made no secret of the fact that he entertains the idea of running for National Commander of the VFW in the future.

Kowalski is a strong advocate for those who once and those who now wear the uniform. He has been a frequent visitor to Camp Ripley and the Air Force Reserves' 934th Airlift Wing to see our troops headed off overseas. He's organized VFW post dinners for families of deployed Marines. And, he's served on the VFW's national POW/MIA Council. In fact, he gave the eulogy when PFC Robert Cahow returned home from Germany to Clear Lake, Wisconsin, after 57 years missing.

Kowalski has shown a particularly great deal of compassion for those of his comrades who have fallen on hard times and are experiencing a time of need. He has noted that during his tenure as state commander, he will work closely with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to help the estimated 700 homeless veterans across Minnesota. He calls those veterans a "Lost Brigade" and notes that his mission is "making sure they get found and get the help they need."

While his commitment to his fellow veterans runs strong and deep, he has also served his community in other ways. He was a longtime member of the School Board in Spring Lake Park District 16, a Little League coach, an Olympic torch carrier, and a 9/11 memorial organizer. Stan Kowalski, who many know from his 26-year career as a pro-wrestler with 19 major titles, has been a prolific fundraiser for efforts ranging from the Greater Twin Cities United Way to the ROTC to Save Our Sports for the University of Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I join all of Minnesota in paying tribute to the great energy and good works of Commander Stan Kowalski.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY RAMAEKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shirley Ramaeker for her many

years of service at the Eagle Grove, Iowa, Fareway Economical Food Store.

For the past 20 years, Shirley has served the people of Eagle Grove as an outstanding and dedicated employee, offering reliable and friendly service. In fact, members of the community often wait in her line just to have their groceries checked out by her. Shirley's commitment to her job and her customers has earned her admiration, trust and friendship from her fellow co-workers. Great service goes a long way, and I am honored to see fellow Iowans like Shirley providing service second to none.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Shirley Ramaeker for her service to Eagle Grove and the Fareway Food Store. I consider it an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM RYAN FRITSCHKE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of a soldier who died honorably serving his country in Afghanistan as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Staff Sergeant William Ryan Fritsche made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and we honor him for his service.

Staff Sergeant Fritsche joined the U.S. Army under the delayed entry program at the age of 17, two weeks after the September 11, 2001 attacks. He was first stationed with the Old Guard, the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, the Army's official ceremonial unit and Escort to the President, which is based in Arlington, Virginia. In January 2007, Staff Sergeant Fritsche left the Old Guard and joined the 1st Brigade, 91st Cavalry regiment, 173rd Airborne unit based out of Vence, Italy. With this new unit, he left in March for a 15 month deployment to Afghanistan.

In July of 2007 at the age of 23, Staff Sergeant Fritsche was killed in action while leading a dismounted patrol in Kamu, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, a NATO citation, an Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge.

I commend Staff Sergeant Fritsche for his commitment to our country and his courage to fight for freedom in an unsettled world. Without doubt, his bravery gives his mother, Mrs. Volitta Fritsche of Martinsville, Indiana, and his widow, Mrs. Brandi Nicole Fritsche of Maryland's 2nd Congressional District, great pride. In honor of Staff Sergeant Fritsche's commitment to preserving the freedom of our nation, friends and relatives have established an ongoing scholarship in his name, the SSG W. Ryan Fritsche Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the patriotism and dedication of

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